



August 6, 2010

Dear California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System Agency Responders:

Attached you will find the Agreement for Local Government Fire and Emergency Assistance 2010 Rate Letter. These rates are the same as the June 2009 rates (Rate Letter).

The Cal EMA Fire and Rescue Division sent an informational bulletin on June 8, 2010, concerning the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) and rates with a message that a plan of action was being addressed regarding the current issues and a mutually agreeable solution to the issues.

The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) Committee is formed for the purpose of negotiating the terms of the CFAA, and for maintenance of the agreement. The committee consists of Cal EMA, CAL FIRE, Federal Fire Agencies, and three advisory representatives from local government fire agencies in California--one from Northern California, one from Southern California and one representing volunteer fire departments. The committee is responsible to meet in person annually to establish the Administrative Rate, Base Rates, and Equipment Rates to become effective upon publication of the rate letter each year. These rates are typically published annually by the Cal EMA Fire and Rescue Division, in an "Agreement for Local Government Fire and Emergency Assistance to the State of California and Federal Fire Agencies Rate Letter" (attached).

This year, as the committee met to negotiate rates for the 2010 rate letter, sensitivities concerning efficiency of services, fiscal propriety and accountability with the current rates and methodology contained within the agreement have become issues of contention with no resolve to date.

To ensure that California continues to maintain its effective and efficient emergency response system, executive staff representing USFS, CAL FIRE, Cal EMA, FIREScope and the Association of Contract Counties established a California Aid System Steering Group (CAS) and California Aid System (CAS) Work Group. The purpose of both groups is to propose and develop rates, formulas, structures and definitions that are feasible and applicable for all local government fire agencies to utilize and receive fair and equitable reimbursement for costs associated with their response through this agreement.

The concerns of all fire agencies must be considered as we work through these issues. The CFAA Committee, the CAS Steering Group and CAS Work Group are committed to resolving these issues and maintain a positive relationship throughout the fire service in California.

Thank you all for your patience in this matter and for your continued support and dedication as we continue to work through resolving the above mentioned matters.

Sincerely,
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KIM ZAGARIS
State Fire and Rescue Chief

Attachment